

## Message Text

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ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-08 SY-05 FAA-00  
DOTE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 SCS-03 /045 W  
-----035660 241947Z /41 S  
O 241621Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7600

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14134

FOR M/CT & S/S-O

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PORS, UK  
SUBJECT: INFORMATION CONCERNING AMCITS INVOLVED IN AIR-  
CRAFT HIJACKINGS

REF: STATE 197921

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE DONE EXTENSIVE RESEARCH WITH US- AND FOREIGN-FLAG AIR CARRIERS OPERATING FROM LONDON, AND BASED ON THEIR COMMENTS, WE BELIEVE REQUIREMENT STATED IN PARAGRAPH 1 IS NOT OPERATIONALLY FEASIBLE. ALL CARRIERS CONTACTED (PAA, TWA, NATIONAL, BRITISH AIRWAYS, SWISSAIR) EXPRESSED COMPLETE SUPPORT IN PROVIDING US WITH ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING PASSENGER DATA FOR ANY OF THEIR ORGANIC EQUIPMENT SUBJECTED TO HIJACKING; PA AND TW WERE QUERIED AS TO WHETHER OTHER CARRIERS WOULD BE SIMILARLY DISPOSED, AND THEY OPINED THAT ANY CARRIER WHICH SUFFERED HIJACK WOULD RELEASE AVAILABLE INFO TO ANY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT ORGAN WHICH MIGHT BE ABLE TO IN ANY WAY CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF HIJACK SITUATION. CARRIERS UNANIMOUSLY STATED THAT THERE IS NO METHOD AT PRESENT TO SORT OUT NATIONALITY OF TRAVELERS, OTHER THAN GUESSTIMATES BASED ON LOCATION WHERE TICKET PURCHASED. WE PROPOSE, THEREFORE, THAT EMBASSIES AND  
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CONSULATES COULD MORE READILY PROVIDE ON AN EXPEDITIOUS BASIS COMPLETE MANIFESTS OF ALL O/B PASSENGERS TO THE DEPARTMENT. WE ARE MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION IN UPCOMING REVISION TO OUR DUTY OFFICER HANDBOOK. END SUMMARY.  
2. IN CONTACTS WITH SELECTED US, HOST AND THIRD COUNTRY AIR CARRIERS HERE, WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF COMPLETE CO-OPERATION IN OBTAINING ON AN EXPEDITIOUS BASIS MANIFEST

INFORMATION FOR ANY AIRCRAFT OPERATING OUT OF LONDON'S AIRPORTS WHICH ARE SUBJECTED TO HIJACK. CARRIERS REPORT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED EITHER FROM COMPUTER-GENERATED FLIGHT MANIFESTS OR FROM TICKET COUPONS. THE FORMER ARE GENERALLY HELD FOR SEVERAL HOURS AFTER FLIGHT DEPARTURE, THE LATTER FOR THREE HOURS (COMPUTER) TO A DAY (MANUALLY-GENERATED LISTINGS). NEITHER IDENTIFIES NATIONALITY OF TRAVELER. UK IMMIGRATION REQUIRES PASSENGERS LEAVING THE COUNTRY TO COMPLETE AND TURN IN EMBARKATION CARDS WHICH PROVIDE NATIONALITY (THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD NOT INVOLVE PASSENGERS IN TRANSIT); THESE APPEAR TO OFFER LITTLE HELP IN MEETING REQUIREMENTS GIVEN PARAGRAPH 1, REFTEL, DUE TO HEAVY VOLUME OF TRAVELERS TURNING THEM IN AND TO THE FACT THAT IMMIGRATION CANNOT ESTABLISH WHICH FLIGHT CARDS ASSOCIATED WITH. FYI: IT NORMALLY TAKES IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES SEVERAL WEEKS TO ASSEMBLE CARDS IN USEABLE SEQUENCE END FYI.

3. IT THEREFORE SEEMS TO US THAT THE MOST WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE IS TO PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH COMPLETE MANIFEST OBTAINED FROM CARRIER UPON RECEIVING NOTIFICATION OF HIJACKING, ENABLING RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC ENQUIRIES AS TO WHO ON PLANE. ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE NATIONALITY, IF IT COULD BE DEFINITELY ASCERTAINED AT ALL, WOULD GREATLY DELAY TRANSMISSION OF PASSENGER INFORMATION TO WASHINGTON

4. IN COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3, REFTEL, WE PLAN TO INCORPORATE A SECTION IN THE NEXT REVISION OF LONDON'S CONFIDENTIAL

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DUTY OFFICER HANDBOOK ON THE PROPER HANDLING OF US, HOST AND THIRD COUNTRY AIRCRAFT HIJACKED FROM LONDON'S AIRPORTS. AS REQUESTED, COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO M/CT & S/S-O.

STREATOR

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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